

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OES-07 /083 W

-----068562 180353Z /65

R 171324Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8152

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 1159

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, LI, GA, GV, TO, SG, IV, XA, XJ

SUBJECT: TOURE VISIT TO LIBERIA

REFS: (A) MONROVIA 1076 (B) CONAKRY 0315 (NOTAL)

1. PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE, PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI AND PARTY WERE RECEIVED FEBRUARY 16 AT ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BY PRESIDENT TOLBERT, VICE PRESIDENT WARNER AND THE USUAL ASSEMBLY OF GOL OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATS. THE CEREMONIES ALSO MARKED THE DEDICATION OF THE NEWLY COMPLETED AIR TERMINAL. THE PARTY VISITED THE WEST AFRICA EXPLOSIVE AND CHEMICAL FACTORY BEFORE CONTINUING TO MONROVIA. A BUFFET DINNER WAS HELD IN TOURE'S HONOR THAT EVENING, AFTER WHICH THE TWO LEADERS MET PRIVATELY TO DISCUSS ISSUES "PERTAINING TO BOTH COUNTRY, AFRICA AND THE WORLD".
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VISITS TO THE OAU CENTER AND A HOUSING PROJECT ARE INCLUDED IN TOURE'S PROGRAM. THE PARTY WILL RETURN TO GUINEA 4:00 P., FEBRUARY 17, ACCORDING TO GOL RADIO.

2. DURING THE VISIT TOURE WAS MADE AN HONORARY CITIZEN OF LIBERIA, AT WHICH TIME HE WAS DESCRIBED AS

A MAN WHO HAS ALWAYS SOUGHT " TO PRESERVE AND PROMOTE PEACE, UNDERSTANDING AND GOOD WILL AMONG THE NATIONS AND PEOPLES OF THE WORLD". IN RESPONSE, TOURE PRAISED THE "DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP" OF PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND DESCRIBED LIBERIA AS "A PIONEER IN THE CAUSE OF AFRICAN FREEDOM". TOURE UNDERSCORED THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND SAID AFRICA MUST "TRY TO CATCH UP WITH DEVELOPED NATIONS". HE SAID THAT "THE PRIMARY CONCERN OF AFRICAN LEADERS NOW MUST BE TO BRIDGE THIS GAP".

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO INDICATION YET OF THE CONTEXT OF THE PRIVATE DISCUSSION BETWEEN TOURE AND TOLBERT AND, THEREFORE, HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO OUR COMMENT IN REFTEL A.

CARTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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